

EI-7276

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W.
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am writing in regards to the proposed rail line construction and operation by the RJ Corman Railroad Company between Wallacetown and Gorton in Clearfield and Centre counties, PA.

I am strongly opposed to this project because the proposed route would cause the loss of almost 20 miles of the highly successful Snow Shoe Rails to Trails. Operating since the mid-1990's, the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails is a major ingredient to the Pennsylvania Wilds tourism and promotion efforts. It continues to be a very popular public rail trail that has helped rejuvenate the central Pennsylvania area.

Snow Shoe Rails to Trails has struggled to build, manage, maintain and expand the abandoned rail located at Black Bear Bridge in Winburne to Clarence and in Snow Shoe Township-approximately 19 miles of railroad bed owned by Headwaters Charitable Trust. Through grants and membership money, they have accomplished a great deal in 10 years. This request by RRLLC would significantly harm the SSRT. Two of the most scenic draws of the trail are the Railroad Via-duct bridge that spans the Red Moshannon and the historic Peale Tunnel. The tunnel has been rehabilitated through grant monies.

How can trainloads of trash be to our benefit?

In addition, there are four federal agencies on record that have identified issues of concern regarding the proposed industrial development project: Federal Highway Administration, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Army Corp of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. At this time, none of the environmental concerns raised by these agencies has been addressed by the developer of the proposed industrial developmental project.

Before any further steps are taken to move forward with this project, I request that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed. The potential environmental and financial impact of this proposed rail project warrants a complete environmental assessment.

Thank you for consideration of this request. I truly believe it is in the best interest of the central Pennsylvania region.

Sincerely,

William Stugart